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REMARKS

Claim amendments

Claims 50, 51, 52 and 56 have been amended to correct an antecedent problem noted therein.

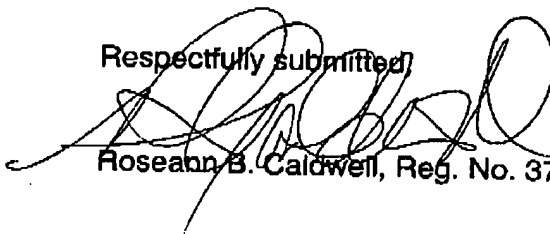
Claims 29 to 44 have been cancelled, as being directed to a non-elected invention. However, this cancellation is made without prejudice to filing a divisional application at a later date directed to the subject matter of any non-elected claims, if necessary.

In the office action dated November 24, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 23 and 24 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claim 22, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, claim 22 has been cancelled and claim 23 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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